

SN. 10/723,182

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. FUJI:282

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 remain pending in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration. Method claims 13-15 have been withdrawn as directed to a non-elected invention.

Amendment

Independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to incorporate part of allowable claim 4, and claims 4-6 have been appropriately amended to properly depend ultimately from amended claim 1. No new matter has been introduced.

Allowable Claims

Claims 4-6 and 10-12 have been indicated to be allowed if they are placed in independent form. As claim 1 now incorporates the feature deemed allowable, applicants submit that claims 1 and 14, and all claims depending therefrom are allowable. Although claims 14 and 15 are withdrawn, since claim 14 includes all of the features of allowable claim 1, it too is allowable. Claim 15 is allowable since it depends from allowable claim 14.

Art Rejection

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shimizu (USPA 2002/0127433) in view of Howard (USP 4,632,883). The examiner states that Shimizu's soft magnetic layer 21A and spacer layer 22 correspond to the claimed orientation control layer and antiferromagnetic spacer layer. Applicants submit that the combination, however, would not have disclosed or taught an antiferromagnetic layer composed of an Mn alloy, as noted by the examiner in allowing claims 4-6 and 10-12.

SN. 10/723,182

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. FUJI:282

Conclusion

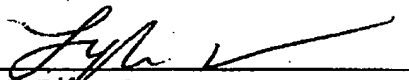
Applicants submit that the pending claims patentably distinguish over the applied references and thus urge the examiner to issue an early Notice of Allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSSI, KIMMS & McDOWELL LLP

29 AUGUST 2005

DATE


LYLE KIMMS

REG. NO. 34,079 (RULE 34, WHERE APPLICABLE)

P.O. Box 826
ASHBURN, VA 20146-0826
703-726-6020 (PHONE)
703-726-6024 (FAX)